

REMARKS

Claims 61-84 are pending in this application. Claims 1-60 were previously canceled. Claims 61, 69-72, 74 and 78-84 have been amended. The Abstract of the Disclosure and Specification have been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 61-79 and 81-83 have been allowed and that claims 80 and 84 have been objected-to.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's early indication of allowable subject matter. As indicated above, claims 80 and 84 have been amended to address the issues pointed out by the Examiner.

Therefore, all claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated whether or not the drawings have been accepted. Clarification is requested in the next Official Communication.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 1, 2005.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure and the specification.

In response, a revised Abstract of the Disclosure is attached on a separate sheet at the end of this Amendment.

A Substitute Specification is being provided in order to place the application in better form. Also included is a marked-up copy of the original specification which shows the portions of the original specification which are being added and deleted.

In addition, in order to overcome the objection to the specification the Applicant has amended the specification in order to correct the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. (Specifically, on page 2, line 17 of the specification (paragraph [0011] of the Substitute Specification), and the last line of claim 61, after “and” the word “fourth” is changed to “third”).

The Applicant respectfully submits that the substitute specification includes no new matter and that the substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In response to the Examiner’s objection to the claims, each of claims 80 and 84 has been amended to depend from pending claims.

All claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated objections have been properly accommodated or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at 703-208-4030, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Application No. 10/541,223
Amendment dated August 29, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2006

Docket No.: 0641-0271PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James M. Slattery
Registration No.: 28,380 #43,368
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachment: Substitute Specification (marked-up and clean copies)